



## Commercial Filming, Photography & Sound Recording Information and Guidelines

The National Park Service (NPS) is mandated to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” (16 U.S.C. 1) For this purpose the Department of the Interior developed RM-53, which governs filming, photography and sound recordings in National Parks. Under these guidelines NPS units have the authority and responsibility to manage, permit and/or deny filming, photography and sound recordings in ways consistent with park management and mission.

It is the policy of the NPS to allow commercial photography, still photography, filming and sound recordings to the fullest extent possible while providing for the protection of park resources and ensuring the enjoyment of those resources by park visitors.

Filming permits are required for any filming or photography when the activity:

- Involves the use of a model(s), actor(s), set(s), or prop(s) that are not part of the location’s natural or cultural resources or administrative facilities; or
- Takes place at location(s) where or when members of the public are generally not allowed; or
- Requires access to the park before or after normal working hours; or
- Incurs additional administrative costs to the Park to monitor the activity; or
- Indicates potential for resource damage, including wildlife, or undue disruption of visitor activities.

For purposes of definition, "filming" or "film-making" is commercial still photography, motion picture photography, videotaping or sound recording. Documentaries, travelogues, feature stories and similar types of filming require a permit, if the elements listed above exist.

A permit is not required for:

- Visitors using a camera and/or a recording device for his/her own personal use and within normal visitation areas and hours.
- Press coverage of breaking news. Although breaking news would not require a permit, this activity is subject to time, place and manner restrictions, if warranted, to maintain order and ensure the safety of the public and the media and protect park natural and cultural resources.

Breaking news is defined as an event that cannot be covered at any other time or location. The determination of what is considered to be breaking news is at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her representative. Documentaries filmed specifically for sale to a news station or educational channel are considered a commercial venture and require a permit. News media crews, when not covering newsworthy/news making events, but shooting human interest, staged events, or other topics may be required to obtain a permit before proceeding with filming.

Permits issued for commercial photography (advertising) specifically prohibit implied or stated endorsement by the National Park Service. Identifiable NPS equipment, uniforms, signs, buildings or insignia may not be portrayed in commercial advertising in any way that would imply NPS endorsement of the product.

**Permit Fees and Costs:** **A \$50.00 non-refundable permit application processing fee is required** for all applicants and must be submitted with the filming application form. Application fees are not refundable, regardless of whether or not a permit is ultimately issued. All commercial filming permits and still photography permits are subject to cost recovery and a location fee. No waivers are allowed.

If administration of a permit requires the park to incur additional costs, the Permittee will be assessed those costs in addition to application fee and location fee. Additional charges may be incurred for administrative services, overtime,

repairing/restoring/cleaning resources, security, or similar costs associated with the filming event. Any additional costs and location fees will be required to be paid at the time of the issuance of the permit. If for some reason there are any additional costs that are incurred, the Permittee will be billed at the conclusion of the permit.

The location fee is calculated per day and must be based on the following schedule and is determined by the type of activity (commercial filming versus still photography) and the number of people on park lands associated with the permitted activity. There is no deviation from the schedule.

Commercial Filming/Videos		Still Photography	
1 - 2 people, camera & tripod only	\$0/day	1 - 10 people	\$50/day
1 - 10 people	\$150/day	11 - 30 people	\$150/day
11 - 30 people	\$250/day	Over 30 people	\$250/day
31 - 49 people	\$500/day		
Over 50 people	\$750/day		

The applicant or Permittee is required to notify the NPS of any delays or schedule changes at least 36 hours in advance. Should the applicant or Permittee fail to provide such advance notification, the applicant or Permittee is responsible for paying all costs incurred by the NPS anytime during the application, permitting, or operational process, including those due to cancellation, moving, or rescheduling of the project. Such payment will include but not be limited to a non-refundable charge for each staff person scheduled for the affected activity. Such charge will, at a minimum, be the equivalent of two hours overtime for each employee assigned. These costs may be recovered through the posting of a bond at the time of application, or through a bill for collection presented at any point after initial contact.

**Insurance and Bonding:** Permittees will be required to obtain a certificate of insurance showing general liability coverage, issued by a United States company, which **must** show the U.S. Government, National Park Service, George Washington Carver National Monument as additionally insured. Short term policies must show coverage on "occurrence" basis. The amount of commercial liability insurance may range from \$300,000 to several million depending on the nature of the project. Additional amounts may be required for high risk activities.

Certain activities may trigger the need for the Permittee to post a refundable damage bond. The amount of the bond will be equivalent to the estimated cost to NPS for clean up, repair or rehabilitation of resources or facilities that could potentially be impacted by the permit activities. At the conclusion of the permit, the bond will be returned to the Permittee after costs of clean up, repair or rehabilitation are deducted.

**Applications:** Complete the *Application for Commercial Filming/Still Photography Permit* (NPS form 10-931). Please review and sign the **Terms & Conditions** below and submit them with your permit application. These terms & conditions outline the specific requirements and restrictions of the permit. It is important that your response be as detailed as possible concerning your proposed activity. For example, we must know how long you propose to film, photograph, and/or record, where you propose to film, photograph and/or record, the type of equipment to be used, and any proposed special effects. You are also encouraged to attach copies of storyboards or scripts. **You will not be permitted to arrive and then select locations on the day of shooting.** If you are not familiar with the park, we highly recommend an advance trip to scout locations.

Mail the completed application along with the signed terms & conditions document and the required permit application processing fee of \$50.00 to: George Washington Carver NM, Attn.: Special Park Uses Coordinator, 5646 Carver Road, Diamond, Missouri 64840. Cashiers check, money order, or personal check must be made out to the National Park Service with your Social Security Number or Tax Identification Number noted on you check. Amounts over \$1,000 must be in the form of a business or certified check.

The information on the application will be used by NPS staff to evaluate the impact of the proposed activity on park resources and visitors. Most requests can be processed within 5 working days. Requests which involve multiple locations, complex logistics or coordination with other visitor activities will require a minimum of 15 working days to process. Projects which require environmental or cultural resource evaluation must be submitted not less than 30 days before the start of proposed activities. Due to the lack of park staff available to assist with scouting, monitoring, consulting, providing interviews, etc., it may be necessary to allow only one crew in the park at a given time. Applications are handled in the order in which they are received. Priority will not be given to urgent requests.

Filming applications will be returned to the applicant if submitted incomplete, cannot be approved as submitted, or are received without payment or without a Social Security or Federal Tax Identification Number. This may delay the consideration of a permit.

**Permits:** All projects will be reviewed to ensure protection of the park's resources and values, and that no disruption of normal visitor use will occur. A permit within areas administered by the NPS may be denied or revoked if the project:

- Poses a threat to the park resources; or
- Places unreasonable burdens on supervisory capacity of the park staff; or
- The Permittee does not agree to pay assessed cost recovery; or
- The Permittee fails to obtain insurance/bonding; or
- Would conflict unduly with the public's normal use; or
- The project depicts activities that are not permitted within the park; or
- The application does not contain sufficient information on which to base a permit.

**Termination of Permit:** All filming or photography permits issued by the National Park Service are "revocable" on 24 hours notice, or WITHOUT NOTICE if the terms of the permit are violated. Deliberate infractions of the terms of the filming permit or the deliberate making of false or misleading statements concerning intended actions in order to obtain a permit are causes for immediate termination of the permit and cause for possible prosecution. Permits will be revoked if damage to resources or facilities is threatened, or if there is a clear danger to public health or safety.

If your application is approved, a Special Use Permit will be prepared and mailed to you for signature. Upon receipt, please review, sign and return the permit along with the location fee and any additional cost recovery fees to our office for the Superintendent's signature. After the Superintendent signs the permit, a copy of the permit as well as the signed procedures and conditions packet will be forwarded to you. *The approved, signed permit copy must be in your possession at the time of your event.*

**Terms & Conditions:** To maintain park natural and cultural resources and quality visitor experiences, the following restrictions and requirements apply to Special Use Permits for commercial filming and photography:

1. The Federal Government, its agents and employees, cannot be held liable for claims for damages or suits for any injury or deaths from any cause occasioned by the Permittee's occupancy and use of the land and facilities included within the permit.
2. This permit may not be transferred or assigned without the consent of the Superintendent, in writing.
3. The Permittee is prohibited from giving false information; to do so will be considered a breach of conditions and be grounds for revocation [Re: 36 CFR 2.32(4)].
4. The area will remain open to the public.
5. If required, all liability insurance policies are to name the U.S. Government, National Park Service, George Washington Carver National Monument as a co-insured and shall specify that the insurance company shall have no right to subrogation against the United States and shall have no recourse against the Government for payment of any premium or assessment. A certificate of insurance indicating that the required insurance is in effect shall be provided by the Permittee to the Special Park Uses Coordinator prior to the commencement of any activities authorized under this permit.
6. Filming activities will not conflict unduly with the visitors' experiences in the park. All park areas will remain open to the public. Visitors will be allowed to watch filming from an area identified by the Permittee and approved by the NPS.
7. Filming may take place only in areas open to the general public.
8. Use of children or animals is prohibited.
9. Filming equipment and props cannot be dragged or driven off road or off trail.
10. Disrupting or stopping vehicle traffic is not allowed.
11. All traffic regulations must be obeyed. Vehicles must remain on established roadways, roadside pullouts or parking areas. Crews must utilize established pullouts and parking areas at all times while filming, loading

and unloading crew and equipment. Vehicle access on public unpaved roads may be restricted following rain or other conditions that may damage wet areas.

12. The Permittee and participants will not disturb, adversely effect, alter, damage or remove any natural or cultural resources, archeological or historic artifacts.
13. Wildlife will not be harassed, disturbed, manipulated, baited, fed, called with any wildlife-calling device or filmed by means of spotlighting (the use of artificial light).
14. Contacting/interviewing park visitors is prohibited unless accompanied by an NPS representative.
15. Government equipment may not be loaned, rented, or diverted from normal use for purposes of filming.
16. Use of NPS Arrowhead in titles, credits, or other deliberate disclosures requires permission.
17. Each day Permittee will remove all equipment, props, litter and debris from filming location(s), returning the site to its original condition within one hour after completion of filming. All tracks and other visible signs resulting from filming activity will be eliminated upon completion of filming activities. This will be done under the direction of the NPS. Cleanup will be to NPS satisfaction with final inspection made by an NPS representative. Permittee will provide for proper and immediate disposal of these items and all litter.
18. The use of firearms, including the discharging of blank ammunition and explosives, is prohibited.
19. Nudity is prohibited.
20. No employee of the NPS may work for the Permittee in any capacity whatsoever while in uniform or if directly involved in the supervision of the Permittee. NPS employees may not perform or appear to perform official duties for purposes of filming unless such performances have been approved by the NPS. NPS employees may not read/perform scripted materials. No personal gratuity of any nature will be offered to any employee of the Government in connection with the exercise of the privilege granted.
21. Park Management will not sign location releases signed by the applicant.
22. Aerial photography must be performed at a minimum altitude of 2000 feet above ground level.
23. NPS Supervision: Filming activities will be monitored by a qualified NPS employee to ensure full compliance with all of the terms and conditions of the permit.
24. Sequences filmed at the Park may not imply endorsement of any service or product by the Park, National Park Service, or U.S. Department of the Interior; and, identifiable NPS equipment, uniforms, or insignia may not be portrayed in commercial advertising.
25. Violation of the terms and conditions of the permit may result in the immediate revocation of the permit.

Other stipulations may be added depending on the specific nature of your request.

If you have any questions about the application process or your permit, please contact the Special Park Uses Coordinator at (417) 325-4151, or email: [kathi\\_palacio@nps.gov](mailto:kathi_palacio@nps.gov).

Printed name of Permittee: \_\_\_\_\_

Agreed to by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Permittee Signature Date

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, George Washington Carver NM Date

**National Park Service**  
**George Washington Carver NM**  
**5646 Carver Road, Diamond, MO 64840**  
**417-325-4151**



**Application for Commercial Filming/Still Photography Permit**

Please supply the information requested below. **Attach additional sheets, if necessary, to provide required information.** Allow **AT LEAST** four (4) business days for processing. A non-refundable processing fee should accompany this application unless the requested use is an exercise of a First Amendment right. You will be notified of the disposition of the application and the necessary steps to secure your final permit. Your permit may require the payment of cost recovery charges, a location fee, and proof of liability naming United States of America as also insured.

Applicant:	Company:
Social Security #:	Tax ID #:
Street/Address:	Street/Address:
City/State/Zip Code:	City/State/Zip Code:
Telephone #:	Telephone #:
Cell phone #:	Cell phone #:
Fax #:	Fax #:
Email:	Email:

Project name:	Producer:
Type of project:	Photographer:
Location manager:	Director:
Telephone #:	Caterer:
Cell phone #:	Telephone # - set:

Summary of Activities and Scene(s) (attach additional pages if necessary):


**SCHEDULE BY LOCATION(S)** (Includes filming, parking and base camp):

Date	Location	Start Time	End Time	Type of Activity (e.g., film, prep, or strike)	Number of Cast & Crew

Description of Equipment/Props(attach additional pages if necessary):

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List of vehicles including type and license plate number (attach additional pages if necessary):

Vehicle Make and Model

License Number


Use of Roads and/or Trails? (Y/N): \_\_\_\_ Describe proposed use (attach additional pages if necessary):

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Are you familiar with/ have you visited the requested area?

☐Y ☐N

Have you obtained a permit from the National Park Service in the past?

☐Y ☐N

(If yes, provide a list of permit dates and locations on a separate page.)

Do you plan to advertise or issue a press release before the event?

☐Y ☐N

I hereby state that the above information given is complete and correct and that no false or misleading information or false statements have been given. All estimates are reliable to the best of my knowledge and I have the full authority to represent the applicant entity and the project described above.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Information provided will be used to determine whether a permit will be issued. Completed application must be accompanied by an application fee in the form of a cashiers check or money order in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_.00 made payable to **National Park Service**. Credit card payments may be accepted at some parks. Application and administrative charges are non-refundable. *This completed application should be mailed to Special Park Uses Coordinator at the Park address found on the first page of this application.*

**Note** that this is an application only, and does not serve as permission to conduct any use of the park. If your request is approved, a permit containing applicable terms and conditions will be sent to the person designated on the application. The permit must be signed by the responsible person and returned to the park prior to the event for final approval by the Park Superintendent.

## NOTICES

**Privacy Act Statement:** The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) provides that you be furnished with the following information in connection with information required by this application. This information is being collected to allow the park manager to make a value judgment on whether or not to allow the requested use. Applicants are required to provide their social security or taxpayer identification number or activities subject to collection of fees by the National Park Service (31 U.S.C. 7701) Information from the application may be transferred to appropriate Federal, State, local agencies, when relevant to civil, criminal or regulatory investigations or prosecutions.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement):** This information is being collected subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501) to allow the park manager to make a value judgment on whether or not to allow the requested use. All applicable parts of the form must be completed. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 30 minutes per response including the time it takes to read, gather and maintain data, review instructions and complete the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspects of this form to the National Park Service, Special Park Uses Program Manager, 1849 C Street NW (2460), Washington, D.C. 2024